RAPID GROWTH OF THE CUBAN REPUBLIC.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

THERE is doubtless no country in which Americans have a greater interest than Cuba, because we started this little island in business for itself. We have almost a paternal solicitude in its welfare, because, without our instrumentation, its present era of independence would have been impossible. The political life of Cuba may be reckoned by three periods, namely: The colonial, the American occupation, and the present republic. A review of conditions, as revealed by the vital statistics, offers much that is interesting.

That the health of the people of the island continues to improve is cause for much congratulation. In the city of Havana the death rate is now fifteen to the thousand, which is a most excellent showing when it is considered that in 1880, under the old regime, the mortality was forty to the thousand. In 1880 over 1,100 people died in Havana from yellow fever and smallpox, while last year there was not a single death during the twelve months from either disease. It is rumored that Santiago was in a bad sanitary condition, but this is the one city of the island where all the streets are well drained and paved with asphalt. All thoroughfares have an abrupt decline toward the sea, hence the tropical rains help to prevent unsanitary accumulation, if nothing else were done. The continued benefits arising from the sanitary crusade, which was inaugurated in Cuba by the Americans, makes the outlook for Panama seem hopeful.

SCHOOL WORK IN CUBA.

There does not seem to be any great increase in the school system; it is practically where the Americans left it. General Wood provided for about 25 per cent of the public revenues to be appropriated for public instruction, which was something like $4,000,000 annually. The latest reports show that about 24 per cent of the revenues are being utilized for educational purposes, and that 80 per cent of this is for the primary and grammar schools. There was not a Spanish stenographer or typewriter on the island when the Americans took possession, but now there are numbers of both sexes. Several classes in shorthand and typewriting have recently graduated from the schools.

Expert telegraph operators are also being turned out by the schools. The telegraph lines of the republic belong to the government. There are ninety-one stations connecting the six provinces. Last year about 300,000 messages were sent over the lines at an average price of forty-three cents per telegram. Cuba now has telegraphic communication with the United States, Mexico, Central and South America and the Antilles.

The law passed in January of this year, authorizing the president to dispose of the public forests, has caused considerable activity among the lumbermen. There are millions of acres of wooded lands in Cuba, most of which are unexplored forests, containing building timber of all kinds, as well as that used for tanning, rope making, resin, etc., also indigenous fruit trees that produce seeds from which oil is manufactured. A portion of these lands has been rented and the forests exploited. The lessees are taking out mahogany, cedar, firewood, charcoal, etc. The value of Cuban timber may be better understood when it is stated that in remodeling an old prison in Havana, some door and window frames were removed which had been put in something over 300 years ago, yet which were as sound as when first cut.

GROWTH OF FRUIT INDUSTRIES.

The fruit industry is growing in importance. There is a fortune in the culture of pineapples. Some few of the sugar planters, pending the revival of the sugar industry, have turned their attention to this luscious fruit. Over 100,000 plants can be set in a single acre. When the growth is established cultivation is unnecessary, because the spiny points monopolize the ground to the exclusion of weeds, and animals can no more commit depredations than in a cactus field. Ninety per cent of the plants will bear in twelve to eighteen months, and as a rule five crops are cut from one planting. I was told by several dealers that there was never a glut in the market for pineapples, the demand always exceeding the supply.

The orange crop in Cuba this year may reach 500,000 boxes. The Cuban orange never has an acid taste, and its flavor is unusually fine. Grapes raised on the island are of a very excellent quality. Truck farming is becoming an established industry. Last spring the early strawberries from Cuba found a ready sale in the New York market. Many new peach and apricot orchards are being planted.

There seems nothing to add about tobacco except that great success has attended the use of cheese cloth nets to protect the growing plants from the attacks of insects as well as to preserve the moisture. Two well known planters of Pinar del Rio province, where the world's finest tobacco is grown, report a yield of 330 bales per caballeria, from protected plants, while by the old method the output from the same ground amounted only to 150 bales. The Cuban tobacco crop for the past season was 399,020 bales, which was marketed at an average price of $21.75 per bale.

Cuba makes rather a good showing on her bees, but much of the profit on bee culture is lost because, the bees not finding themselves under the necessity of storing up food for a winter day, give themselves up to riotous living—they can gather honey all the year.

The sponge fisheries have always been an established industry in Cuba, the best being in Batabano and Caibarien, although several other ports are engaged in it. The total production during the last season was 960,115 dozen sponges, including all grades, valued at $501,575.42. This shows an increase of 72 per cent over the catch of the previous season. Commercially it is conceded that the finest sponge in the world comes from Cuba, not excepting those from Greece and the Levant. The fine variety called the silky sponge is very small. Aside from being very fine in texture, it is filled with extremely small hairs, which render it invaluable for surgeons.

REVIVAL OF SUGAR BUSINESS.

So far as the number of sugar plantations is concerned, Cuba has never been able to recover lost ground. In 1877 there were 473 plantations in existence, while last year there were only 169 in operation. However, the necessity for cheaper methods of production has prompted the planters to install modern machinery, so that the output of the 169 plantations in operation last season was 1,000,000 tons, against 460,810 tons produced by the 473 crudely operated plantations which were working in 1877. Although the present price of sugar is low, the operators, by reducing the cost of production and increasing the output, realize a fair profit, especially when they utilize fully their side issues of molasses and alcohol. The quick recovery of the sugar industry reflects no little credit upon the planters, showing great energy, labor and perseverance. At some places, notably Cienfuegos and Santa Clara, the output was greater than ever before known. Thousands of acres of virgin soil are being planted in cane and the crops of the future will be very large.

Agriculture, of course, is Cuba's forte. It is not probable that she will ever be much but an exporter of raw material. With a soil that will grow almost anything, this is the natural result. The government has transformed the Industrial school, established by General Wood at Santiago de las Vegas, into an agricultural experiment station, appropriating $75,000 therefor. Frank S. Earle, agricultural expert, attached to the department of agriculture of the United States, has been engaged to organize, direct and manage this institution. It is divided into six sections: General agriculture; animal industry, including veterinary science; horticulture; biology; chemical and physical condition of the soil; botany and vegetable pathology, including entomology. Such a school was greatly desired during the American administration, and it is very commendable in the officials of the new republic to have undertaken the project. The value of the experiments conducted at these stations is unquestionable, especially when a country is so wholly dependent upon its soil as Cuba.

BALANCE IN CUBAN TREASURY.

The statement that there is a surplus of $7,000,000 in the Cuban treasury is untrue. An official report from the department of finance, covering the first three months of the present calendar year, gives the cash in treasury at $4,662,014.36. This balance covers appropriations already granted, some by special laws and others left by the military government; the return of sums unduly placed in the treasury; and the interest on the debt contracted for paying the army, all of which make a total of $3,493,021.82, leaving, therefore, an actual balance of $1,168,992.54. When the American government withdrew from Cuba, there was turned over to the officials of the new republic $635,170.29. While the cash in the treasury has increased since that time, there has been a corresponding decrease in expenditures. During the American occupation the island had to house an army, at one time, of about 40,000 men. Vast sums were spent in sanitation, in building roads and bridges and other public works. The most of this heavy outlay of money was of such a nature that it only had to be made once, thus the increase in the cash balance since that time is easily accounted for. This statement is not made to comment favorably upon the American administration, or the administration of President Estrada Palma; it is merely a recital of fact.

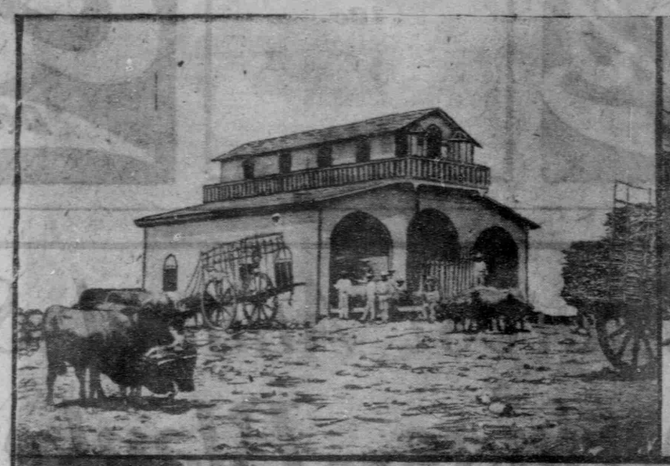
The changes in the new Cuban tariff law have gone into effect. An increase of from 20 to 30 per cent is being levied on almost everything. Many articles, which heretofore were relatively cheap in Cuba, can no longer be had at a low price. For instance, linen has always been within the reach of the moderate purse, but is now 15 per cent higher; also silk, carpets, laces, woolen goods, etc. Cottons have 20 per cent increase; while gold, precious stones, jewelry, silver articles, vegetable fibres, timber, sewing machines, carriages, horses, mules, etc., have 35 per cent increase; boots, shoes, pianos, watches, flour, fruits, coffee, etc., carry an increase of 30 per cent. Practically every article in general use is included in this increase, but it is thought that the reciprocity treaty neutralizes any hardship arising from the apparent increase in cost of living, though it is not easy to see how the laboring man derives special benefit therefrom.

The matter of coffee alone is a hard proposition. Heretofore no man in Cuba was too poor to have coffee. It is the life of the people, and the island is yet a long way from producing sufficient for home consumption. It requires several years to make coffee trees profitable, hence the capital that is being invested in the island is going into something which insures quicker returns. It is a question for the political economist to decide how the Cuban laborer is to earn his coffee, with 30 per cent increase of duty.

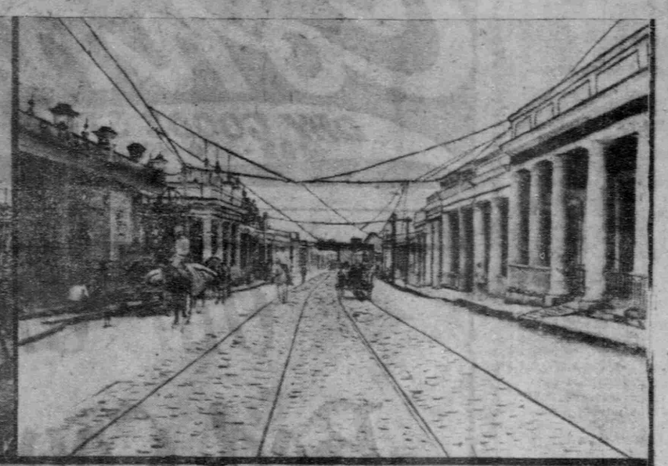
EFFECT ON AMERICAN TRADE.

The report for the first quarter, since the reciprocity treaty went into effect, shows no perceptible increase in the volume of trade with the United States. However, this is not to be wondered at, because the European merchants, knowing that the treaty was an accomplished fact, made special efforts to stock the Cuban markets with their goods and to supply everything necessary for consumption for at least a year to come. Therefore the American manufacturer had no opportunity to sell his goods, because there was absolutely no demand for them. This overstocking method is usually resorted to by those who expect to be affected by a change of tariff. As soon as these surplus stocks begin to give out, the Yankee drummer will have a busy time in Cuba.

A Cuban Sugar Mill.



A Street Scene in Havana.



A Class of Students in Telegraphy.

A Sprightly Cuban School Ma'am.

WHAT A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COSTS.

BY RUFUS ROCKWELL WILSON.

THE late Leonard Swett, speaking from first-hand knowledge of the facts, once said that the whole expense of Lincoln's first nomination for president, including the cost of headquarters, telegrams, music, fares of delegates and incidentals, did not exceed $700. It cost the Republican national committee less to elect Lincoln in 1860 than it does to conduct many a state canvass of the present time. "That committee," said Mr. Swett, "spent a sum that would now seem contemptible, but it did its work as thoroughly and successfully as any committee the party has had since. In 1864, at the most critical hour in the history of the nation, the sum of $100,000 was all that was spent to secure the re-election of Lincoln."

It is a far cry from 1864 to 1904, and it is well within the bounds to say that it will cost more than $5,000,000 to elect a president this year. This sum will be spent by the national committees of the two great parties, and does not include the funds collected and disbursed by the several state committees and other smaller agencies. The use of large sums of money in politics, as has been inferred, is a growth of the last forty years. Previous to that time political campaigning was largely a matter of hurrah and sentiment; but in the later '60s business men, alert, shrewd and fond of system and order, began to take the management of politics into their hands, and a wonderful change in methods and measures was speedily effected. To Smauel J. Tilden, more than to any other man, is due the credit of perfecting the system of campaigning now in vogue. He had a gift for the management of men on a large scale that amounted to genius. He saw that great issues which arouse the enthusiasm of the masses, though most essential, are not in themselves sufficient to insure success in a campaign, but that much of the work to be effective must be done in secret, and that it was of the first importance that every voter should be brought into direct personal contact with the campaign management. This required a comprehensive system, great volumes of correspondence, and an almost unlimited use of printed matter—in a word, an organization which reached out and embraced every home and fireside in the land, and the operation of which involved the expenditure of vast sums of money.

Time stamped Tilden's methods with the seal of success, and they have taken the place of those formerly employed. In 1876 more than $800,000 was collected and spent by the campaign managers of the two great parties. Four years later they had at their disposal more than $1,000,000, and in 1894 the campaign cost not less than $1,800,000; and in the campaign of 1892 the expenditures of the two national committees were quite $2,000,000. Finally, in 1896 more than $4,000,000 and in 1900 an even larger amount passed through the hands of Chairman Hanna and Chairman Jones and their associates. But the charge that the greater part of these vast sums is used to corrupt voters is a false and silly one. Nearly, if not all, of the moneys collected are anticipated by the legitimate expenses of the campaign. These cover a wide range, and their volume swells with every succeeding campaign.

The first work of a national committee is to prepare campaign literature. These documents not only inform the people, but give to orators and writers a mass of facts and arguments. They are in the main the speeches of leading senators and congressmen, but often brief and trenchant cards and circulars, which pierce with a single shaft the armor of the enemy, are employed with telling effect. In 1884 the famous "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion" utterance of Dr. Burchard was printed on small cards and distributed before the doors of all the Catholic churches of the country the Sunday before election. The effect was most disastrous, and as there was little or no time in which to counteract it it had much to do in determining the result of the election. This year the two national committees will probably spend fully $500,000 in the preparation, publication and circulation of documents. This represents a mass of printed matter large enough to fill a small freight train, and it is an open question whether or not too much money is not spent in this way. Still so shrewd a politician as ex-Senator Hill is of the opinion that this plan of appeal has more influence on the wavering and doubtful than any other.

Each of the national committees also maintains throughout the campaign a news bureau, which, under the direction of experienced political writers, supplies partisan news and arguments to the smaller newspapers. A good many newspapers are subsidized—newspapers in foreign tongues, and certain class journals. There are hundreds of these kinds in the larger cities and towns, nearly every one of whose editors is ready to support either party for a consideration. They do not say so openly, but they announce early in a campaign that unless they are "helped" in some way by the national committee to which they appeal it will be inconvenient for them to devote a proper amount of space to "booming" the candidate. Payments to these political soldiers of fortune usually take the form of standing orders for a certain number of papers of each issue, the orders ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 copies.

The campaign orator does not cut the figure in politics that he did in former years; the multiplication of printing presses and telegraph lines has struck a heavy blow at his prestige as a creator and molder of public opinion, but his influence is still great and must be taken into account by campaign managers. During the months of a national campaign hundreds of speakers of national and local repute are kept constantly employed by the national and state committees, the efforts of those under the direction of the national organization being, as a rule, confined to the close and doubtful states. The expenses of all of these speakers are paid, but their services are generally given without expectation of monetary reward. In the cases of men of exceptional gifts of oratory, or of those who cannot afford to neglect their business without a money recompense fees are paid, though an effort is generally made to keep the fact of such payment secret, as when it is known the orator is looked upon as a special pleader and his arguments carry little weight. The result of this flood of campaign oratory is an open question. As Republican mass meetings are attended in the main by Republican voters, the number of converts made by them must be small. Still they serve to create enthusiasm, to maintain and improve discipline, and, as it were, to close up and steady the party ranks. Very useful for the same purpose are the campaign clubs and societies, whose organization and equipment cost in the aggregate a large sum. The money which a national committee gives to its several state committees is sent grudgingly, and the latter are always urged to raise al they can themselves.

The routine work of a national committee requires the renting of spacious quarters, the employment of a large force of clerks, stenographers and messengers, all of whom are well paid for their services, and the committee generally sustains the expense of the party parades and demonstrations held in New York City during the campaign months. These parades and demonstrations do not materially alter the result in the metropolis and are not expected to, but their influence as imposing partisan spectacles is believed to have a good effect upon the country at large. Thus it will be seen that while the sums of money collected for campaign purposes swell yearly, the ways of spending them more than keep pace with the means of raising them.

With the growing use of money in politics it has been found more and more desirable that the chairman of a national committee should be a man of large private fortune, with a credit and business status which inspire confidence and respect. When subscriptions are slow in coming in and he has as yet only promises in lieu of cash, he must become responsible for or advance the funds needed to meet current expenses, and these advances often amount to several hundred thousand dollars. If there is a shortage after the campaign is ended he is the one who is looked to to make it good.

The caution of contributors coupled to the close watch which one national committee keeps on the doings and disbursements of the other reduces to a minimum the possibility of campaign funds being misappropriated. Though they are disbursed in a large measure on honor, and a final accounting is seldom had, still their management is governed as far as possible by strict business rules, and, handled as they are by men of the highest character and integrity, instances in which they fail to reach the channels for which they were intended are very rare indeed. It can, I think, be said with truth that the funds of a national committee are as carefully managed as are those of any large business corporation. In 1888 Postmaster General Wanamaker was at the head of the finance committee, which had in charge the work of raising the Republican campaign funds, and carefully supervised all disbursements, for which he received vouchers. Still, as I have just said, the disbursement of the party funds is in a large measure a matter of honor, and the innovation introduced by Mr. Wanamaker may not be repeated. The financial affairs of the Republican national committee are this year in the hands of Cornelius N. Bliss, and his selection as treasurer has been generally voted a most admirable one. Commercial New York he knows perfectly, and he possesses in full measure the esteem and confidence of the capitalists and money kings. Under his direction there will be no stress of finances in the Republican committee. The treasurer of the Democratic committee is August Belmont, a forceful leader of his party and a business man of high standing.

How is the money raised for campaign funds? The work has developed shrewd and successful beggars of money. As a collector of campaign funds Marshall Jewell, who was for several years chairman of the Republican national committee, perhaps never had an equal. When others failed he succeeded, and it is told of him that in Boston in a single day he collected $170,000. President Arthur was a charming beggar, and when he was an active politician his services as a money-getter were always counted as of first importance. He had much to do with the collection of the funds disbursed by the Republican national committee in 1880. So had Levi P. Morton, who, it is generally believed, within twenty-four hours collected $300,000 or thereabouts for purely technical politics. His powers were again put to the test in 1888. He followed a method of his own. He prepared a list of men whom he knew, and put down opposite their names the sums he thought they ought to give, and then went to see them. Few words were spoken. The business men looked upon the matter as a business transaction, and felt confident that Mr. Morton had good business reasons for calling upon them.

"Do you think I ought to put my name down for so much, Mr. Morton?"

"If I had not thought so I shouldn't have named that amount."

Most men paid without further ado.

The fund used to elect Mr. Cleveland in 1884 came, in the main, from a dozen men. William L. Scott, William C. Whitney and Oliver H. Payne each gave, it is believed, quite $100,000. It is thought that Edward Cooper and Abram S. Hewitt each contributed an equal amount. Senator Benjamin F. Jones was chairman of the Republican national committee in that year, and with the aid of Senator Stephen B. Elkins he collected in round figures $800,000. But this sum did not pay all the bills, and there was a deficiency at the end of the campaign of $115,000. This Jones made good out of his own pocket.

Nor was he the only heavy loser. Mr. Blaine at the outset of the campaign drew his check for $25,000, and sent it to the national committee as his share of the campaign expenses. In the last days of October, his managers became seriously alarmed at the situation in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and decided, as a last expedient, to raise $350,000 for use in those states. Only $50,000 could be got from the usual sources, all which had already been freely drawn upon by the committee. Mr. Blaine was informed of the difficulty, and, on the assurance that the money would be collected and repaid him later, he advanced $100,000. But after the campaign the national committee was unable to make any collections, and Mr. Blaine's loan was not repaid. It is thought that it was mainly to retrieve this loss that he wrote his "Twenty Years in Congress."

William L. Scott's contribution to the Democratic campaign fund in 1888 was $250,000. Other generous contributors were Christopher C. Baldwin, E. C. Benedict and William C. Whitney, who added perhaps another quarter million to the fund. A large sum, it has been said, $400,000, of the Republican campaign fund of 1888, was collected by John Wanamaker. An equal amount was raised in New York City through the efforts of Cornelius N. Bliss and Levi P. Morton. Four days before the election, Senator Quay, who managed the Republican campaign, felt the urgent need of an additional $200,000, and appealed to Senator T. C. Platt. Senator Platt at first protested that, in the brief time, the task was an impossible one; but he finally accomplished it by discounting a note which, according to common belief, bore the indorsement of Collis P. Huntington. The largest contributions to the Democratic campaign funds in 1896 were made by the "silver interests"—the owners of silver mines.

Campaign managers say that it is under most conditions easier to raise money for the party which is out of power than for the party that is in office. Be this as it may, it is certain that the Democratic managers in 1892 had a larger fund at their disposal than the Republicans. And in 1896, when the Republicans were out of office, the committee headed by Chairman Hanna collected a fund almost twice as large as the fund of the managers of the Bryan canvass. It is an open secret that the largest subscriber to this fund was William K. Vanderbilt, who sent his check for $150,000. It was not sent in answer to any appeal, but was a deliberate and voluntary gift late in the campaign. The largest subscription from a corporation came from a purely savings and benevolent association, whose directors voted $25,000 "to protect their depositors from loss of their savings."

This fact brings us to the source of most of the campaign funds in recent years—the great corporations. The so-called "business interests" contribute most freely to the party that is in power, for they wish no change in the conduct of affairs; but many large concerns contribute to both sides, to have friends at court in any event. Office-holders are another certain source of revenue to the national committee of the party in power, and a third source is a considerable class of men who, anious to secure political prominence or to occupy high positions, give lavishly as a means of advancing their personal interests. Finally comes the aggregate of small popular subscriptions, which, especially in contests of unusual enthusiasm, is a large sum.

There is always a sum, large or small, spent in "secret" work, which is charged on the books of the national committee to some general account, where it could never be traced, just as the contributions of corporations are charged on the books of these corporations to some account where a stockholder, for instance, could never find it. There are many uses of campaign money that the managers think prudent to keep secret which are not illegitimate. Indeed, the money that is used at last in buying votes on election day may have been properly charged on the books of a national committee as a legitimate expenditure, and it may have been perverted from its legitimate use on the last day by the last man who received it; or—it may have come from some "secret" fund which had in the beginning been provided for uses that would not bear investigation. How much is spent in buying votes can never be guessed at. But since the secret ballot law went into effect in many states, bribery has been lessened.

A very important and costly piece of work is the polling of doubtful states. From the first, the national committee keeps in close and constant touch with the several state committees. Some states are so safe and others so hopeless as to require no attention from the national managers; but for strategic reasons a sham campaign is sometimes made in hopeless states. The real battle ground is the doubtful states. The national committee, at an early stage of the campaign, causes to be prepared as nearly a correct and complete list of the voters in these states as possible.

Most of the men who make these canvasses have to be paid, and the aggregate cost is, of course, enormous. But it is money that is regarded as well spent, for the real weak spots are discovered and campaign work is redoubled where it is most needed. Meetings are organized at short notice, an army of workers is employed and the best speakers are sent where they may change votes. Thus the most expensive work of a national campaign is done during the last three weeks before the election. Every doubtful state and city is closely watched by men prompt to discover every change in the political tide, and money is transmitted in large sums to the localities in which it is believed it will produce the best results.

Political parties are now so thoroughly organized and national campaigns are so skillfully conducted that the vote of every state can be foretold with reasonable accuracy at least ten days before election, but the loss of a presidential election by 1,200 votes proves the lurking perils that beset the pathway of the wariest political strategist. Reckoning all the expenses in all the states, it may be roughly estimated that a presidential campaign, including also congressional, gubernatorial and lesser campaigns, causes the total expenditure of perhaps $20,000,000.

GLIMPSES INTO MYTHOLOGY.

(Milwaukee Sentinel.)

Bacchus had just rung for ice water.

"Shades of Achilles!" he groaned. "They told me yesterday that it was going to be a sane Fourth."

Holding his throbbing temples, he tried to remember where he had taken his last glass.

Neptune was driving his dolphins through the waves.

"This old shell makes mighty poor time," he said, "but I believe at that I could show up the Wisconsin crew."

Pushing on the reins, he hastened westward.